

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ADP-00 SCI-06 RSR-01 RSC-01 /027 W

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R 261545 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1821

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DEPT PASS ACTING SURGEON GENERAL EHRLICH

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: TBIO, OTRA, US- AR OEXC

SUBJECT: MEDICAL EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS

REF: A. STATE 66045, B. KRATZER- EHRLICH TELECON

1. SCICOUN HAS DISCUSSED ABDELLAH VISIT WITH UNDERSECRETARY GONZALEZ, WHO MOST APPRECIATIVE OF US WILLINGNESS TO TAKE CONCRETE STEP TOWARD IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENT. GONZALEZ FEELS THAT TIME REMAINING IN HIS ADMINISTRATION NOW TOO SHORT TO MAKE VISIT BEFORE MAY 25 WORTHWHILE, BUT HE IS ANXIOUS TO BE ABLE TO TURN OVER DEPT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO NEW LEADERSHIP WITH CONCRETE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ABDELLAH VISIT AGREED UPON. HE BELIEVES JUNE DATE WILL BE SUITABLE, AND THAT VISIT WILL BE WELCOMED BY INCOMING HEALTH AUTHORITIES. BOTH GONZALEZ AND DR LEON, INTERNATIONAL HEALTH DIRECTOR, EXPECT TO ATTEND WHO CONFERENCE BEGINNING IN GENEVA MAY 7, AND HOPE TO AGREE ON SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS THERE WITH EHRLICH.

2. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THIS APPROACH TO AT LEAST BEGINNING IMPLEMENTATION OF EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENT DURING PRESENT GOVERNMENT' S TERM IS A SATISFACTORY ONE, ALTHOUGH WE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT VISIT AS SOON AS JUNE WILL PROBABLY BE INCONVENIENTLY EARLY FOR BRAND NEW AUTHORITIES. SUGGEST THAT IN GENEVA DISCUSSIONS A JULY DATE BE PROPOSED.

3. GONZALEZ APPEARS TO BE MOVING TOWARD TRANSFERRAL OF AUTHORITY
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TO NEW GOVERNMENT WITH MORE ASSURANCE AND BETTER PREPARATIONS
THAN ANY OTHER SCIENCE- RELATED OFFICIAL WITH WHICH WE FAMILIAR,
DESPITE FACT THAT NO LIAISON OFFICIALS FOR HEALTH AREA HAVE
YET BEEN DESIGNATED BY NEW GOVERNMENT. GONZALEZ BELIEVES THAT
HE HAS HEAD START ON TRANSFERRAL OF AUTHORITY DUE TO CREATION
DURING HIS TERM AS UNDERSECRETARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF A BROADLY
BASED ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WHICH INCLUDES
REPRESENTATION FROM MANY GROUPS, INCLUDING PERONIST LABOR
UNIONS. ACCORDING TO GONZALEZ, COMMITTEE IS ALREADY IN AGREEMENT
WITH GENERAL LINES OF PUBLIC HEALTH POLICY, INCLUDING PROJECTED
ELEVATION OF CURRENT SECRETARIAT OF PUBLIC HEALTH TO MINISTERIAL
STATUS.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BUENOS02899
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730455/aaaajadh.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION HEW
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A.STATE 66045, B.KRATZER- EHRlich TELECON
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980205
Subject: MEDICAL EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS
TAGS: OEXC, OTRA, TBIO, AR, US
To: HEW
SECSTATE WASHDC
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005